

On the heels of its fourth global assembly since its founding in 1999, the World Movement for Democracy continues to expand its reach to thousands of democracy activists, practitioners, scholars, and others engaged in the promotion of democracy around the world. As a global “network of networks,” the World Movement brings together participants both regionally and in various areas of democracy work, such as research, local governance, women’s issues, and youth. It is led by an international Steering Committee, and NED currently serves as the World Movement’s Secretariat. In addition to organizing biennial global assemblies, the staff at NED facilitates communications among participants, maintains and updates the website ([www.wmd.org](http://www.wmd.org)), and assists in the development of the regional and functional networks.



## Fourth Assembly

The World Movement held its fourth global assembly in Istanbul, Turkey, on April 2–5, 2006. More than 500 participants from approximately 120

countries gathered to discuss topics around the theme “*Advancing Democracy: Justice, Pluralism, and Participation.*” As with past assemblies in New Delhi, India (1999), São Paulo, Brazil (2000), and Durban, South Africa (2004), the Assembly in Istanbul featured multiple roundtable workshops that emphasized such issues as: preparing for democratic breakthroughs, confronting cultural and religious obstacles to democratic change, countering anti-democratic uses of populism and nationalism, linking democracy and human development, addressing the challenges of terrorism and anti-terrorism, and ensuring the inclusion of women and marginalized populations. The Assembly also included regional and functional workshops specifically designed to strengthen World Movement networks.

## Networks and the World Movement Website

During the past year, the World Movement Secretariat staff at NED worked with participants to develop both regional and functional networks.

- **The African Democracy Forum (ADF)** is the World Movement’s regional network in Africa. During the past year, in partnership with Kabissa, a Washington-based NGO helping to build Africa’s ICT capacity, the ADF developed its new website ([www.africademocracyforum.org](http://www.africademocracyforum.org)) to share information about its activities and the work of its members. The Nairobi-based Kenyan Human Rights Commission serves as the ADF Secretariat.

- **The World Forum for Democratization in Asia (WFDA)** was established to reaffirm the core values of Asian democrats and to extend these values throughout the continent by facilitating concrete measures and strategies to assist the democratization process in Asian societies. The WFDA is a collaborative initiative of the Alliance for Reform and Democracy in Asia, the Taiwan Foundation for



[www.wfda.net](http://www.wfda.net)

Democracy, the Initiative for International Dialogue, and the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats.

- **The Transatlantic Democracy Network** is a cooperative initiative bringing together Europeans and North Americans to help strengthen democracy in the Greater Middle East, postcommunist countries, and elsewhere. The Network continued to thrive as its regular e-bulletin, *Democracy Digest* ([www.demdigest.net](http://www.demdigest.net)) approached 5,000 subscribers, comprising policy makers, decision-makers, and activists from across a wide range of opinion on both sides of the Atlantic and beyond. Sadly, this year saw the loss of Penn Kemble, the Network's co-founder and co-editor of *Democracy Digest* and a longtime friend of NED, after a brave struggle with cancer. Penn's death generated some remarkable tributes and obituaries, marked by sincerity of sentiment and notable political diversity. Penn devoted his lifetime to promoting democracy, and spent his final years developing *Democracy Digest* and the Transatlantic Democracy Network. The Network will continue to advance his legacy of progressive democratic solidarity.

- **The International Movement of Parliamentarians for Democracy (IMPD)** is a coalition of parliamentarians dedicated to the defense and promotion of democracy around the world. It challenges undemocratic practices and supports international human rights campaigns, especially in defense of elected members of parliament who are denied the right to take office or who are the victims of persecution. The IMPD currently includes

## World Movement Steering Committee:

Mahnaz Afkhami  
*Iran*

Genaro Arriagada  
*Chile*

Zainab Bangura  
*Sierra Leone*

Francesca Bombako  
*Democratic Republic of Congo*

Ivan Doherty  
*Ireland*

Han Dongfang  
*China*

Yuri Dzhibladze  
*Russia*

João Carlos Espada  
*Portugal*

Abdou Filali-Ansary  
*Morocco*

David French  
*United Kingdom*

Carl Gershman  
*USA\**

Ivan Krastev  
*Bulgaria*

Riad Malki  
*Palestine*

Reginald Matchaba-Hove  
*Zimbabwe*

George Mathew  
*India*

Roel von Meijfeldt  
*Netherlands*

Ghia Nodia  
*Georgia*

Ayo Obe  
*Nigeria, Chair*

Can Paker  
*Turkey, Treasurer*

Inna Pidluska  
*Ukraine*

Jacqueline Pitanguy  
*Brazil*

Melinda Quintos de Jesus  
*Philippines*

Krzysztof Stanowski  
*Poland, Vice Chair*

Elisabeth Ungar  
*Colombia, Secretary*

\*Ex-officio member as representative of the Secretariat.

over 200 parliamentarians from over 30 countries, and circulates a newsletter, *Advancing Democracy*, which includes summaries of parliamentary elections, published reports, and actions taken by parliaments and governments that are either helpful or harmful to the advancement of democracy.

- **The Youth Movement for Democracy.** Beginning in February 2005, the São Paulo, Brazil office of the Global Youth Action Network (GYAN) has been serving as the Secretariat for the Youth Movement for Democracy. During the past year, the Youth Movement's Working Group, the network's leadership body, has focused on coordinating activities, including a Global Youth Day for Democracy and an essay contest on democracy activism. On Global Youth Day, dozens of democracy organizations around the world will mobilize youth in their respective communities and organize events, such as meetings with representatives of local government, democracy marches, and workshops on democracy issues concerning youth.

- **The Global Network on Local Governance** seeks to develop and promote a sound understanding of local democracy at the regional and global levels and to facilitate the means for sharing knowledge and experiences. The Network is also intended to provide a meaningful global exchange for elected local government institutions and to provide informal fora for discussions aimed at the political empowerment of disadvantaged groups, and the promotion of accountable, participative, and efficient local government. During the past year, the Network established its Secretariat at the Institute of Social Sciences (ISS) in New Delhi, India, which recruited a project coordinator to set up and maintain a website, prepare the Network's newsletter, and maintain communications with the Network's participants.

- **The International Women's Democracy Network** emerged in 2004 from the World Movement's Third Assembly in Durban, South Africa. During the past year, the Network established its Secretariat at the Women's Learning

Partnership, which has been working to launch an e-mail listserv for global discussions on the obstacles to women's political participation and the challenges they face in fulfilling their roles in family, social, and political life within democratic societies. The Network will help facilitate exchanges of experiences, sharing of best practices, and training in democracy work; develop and support advocacy campaigns; build solidarity among and support for individuals and organizations engaged in democracy activism; and increase interaction and communication among and between various transnational networks.

- **The Network of Democracy Research Institutes (NDRI)**, administered by NED's International Forum for Democratic Studies, is a global association of research centers that study democracy, democratization, and political reform. NDRI promotes collaboration and the sharing of ideas among democracy scholars, strengthens and improves the management and administration of democracy study centers, and helps disseminate research findings and policy recommendations among government officials, the media, and the business and academic communities. The NDRI, which currently consists of over 60 institutes, publishes a bi-monthly electronic newsletter, *Democracy Research News*, and a weekly e-mail message, called *Worth Reading*, that recommends a specific book, article, study, report, or government document focused on issues of democracy or important new approaches and trends in research. The Network also conducts an annual Washington Workshop for Think-Tank Managers and cospon-

sors occasional research conferences in various places around the world.

Information on many of these networking initiatives can be found on the World Movement Web site at [www.wmd.org](http://www.wmd.org).



[www.wmd.org](http://www.wmd.org)

## World Movement Website and Electronic Communications

**Participants Database.** The Secretariat established the Participants Database on the World Movement Website in 2002. In addition to contact information and Web site link, each entry includes information on the areas of democracy work in which the organization is engaged, types of activities it conducts, its publications, and other pertinent information. By the end of FY 2005, the database included some 350 organizations.

**“What’s Being Done On . . .?”** The World Movement Secretariat continued to develop topical installments of the “What’s Being Done On . . .?” section of the website. For several months at a time, the section highlights the activities of various organizations in different global regions, and links to

important resources that are all focused on a particular theme or area of democracy work. Topics covered in 2005 included: Promoting Labor Rights, Human Rights Networking, and a special issue on Democracy and Human Rights Work in Turkey, looking ahead to the Fourth Assembly in Istanbul.

**Democracy Alerts.** The World Movement Secretariat continued to issue and update alerts on World Movement participants and other democracy activists facing danger. In 2005, alerts were issued on behalf of founder and leader of the Tiananmen Mothers Network, Ding Zilin (China); the office of the Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Nepal and the Tibetan Refugee Welfare office in Kathmandu; the editor-in-chief of the independent newspaper, *Zgoda* (Belarus); and Uzbek Civil Society and Human Rights Defenders (Uzbekistan).

**DemocracyNews.** The World Movement Secretariat issues a monthly e-newsletter, *DemocracyNews*, as one of the tools for the exchange of information among World Movement participants. *DemocracyNews* includes announcements of World Movement participants’ activities and other events focusing on democracy issues around the world. Over 3,200 democracy activists, scholars, and practitioners worldwide are currently subscribed. Free subscriptions are available via the World Movement website.